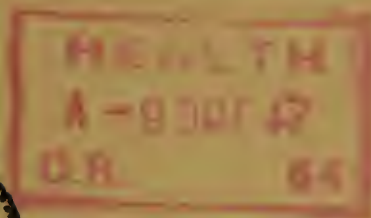


BRARY



Borough of Daventry



ANNUAL REPORT
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the year
1946



DAVID J. JONES

BOROUGH OF DAVENTRY

*With the Compliments of the
Town Clerk*

THE MOOT HALL
DAVENTRY



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DAVENTRY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Members of the Public Health Committee—

Councillor L. S. Swann (Chairman), His Worship Alderman D. C. Arnall (vice-Chairman), Alderman J. Denney, Councillors W. E. Bird, A. A. G. Collett, (Mrs.) E. Cox, (Father) H. G. Farmer, A. T. Knight and R. J. Willoughby

Public Health Officers of the Authority—

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—

DAVID J. JONES, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

also holds appointments of Medical Officer of Health to—

Daventry R. D. C.

Brixworth R. D. C.

Brackley R. D. C.

Brackley Borough

and—

Assistant County Medical Officer of Health, and

Assistant County School Medical Officer of Health

under the **Northamptonshire County Council.**

Borough Sanitary Inspector, Meat Inspector—

W. COUPE, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)				3633
Population (mid-1946)				3897
Number of separate dwellings occupied				1088
Rateable Value				£28,933
Product of a penny rate				£124. 16s. 9d.
LIVE BIRTHS	Total	Male	Female	Rate
Legitimate	64	32	32	
Illegitimate	4	2	2	
	68	34	34	17.17
STILL BIRTHS				
Legitimate	1	1	0	
Illegitimate	0	0	0	
	1	1	0	0.25
DEATHS (all causes)	51	27	24	13.08
DEATHS from PUERPERAL CAUSES				Nil
INFANT MORTALITY—Rate per 1000 live births—				
Legitimate				73.5
Illegitimate				Nil
Deaths from Cancer				5
Measles				Nil
Whooping Cough				Nil
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)				Nil

The Report of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS

Mr. Mayor, Mrs. Cox and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary circumstances for the Borough for the year 1946.

The vital statistics for the year under review can again be considered as satisfactory in comparison with those for England and Wales and also with the figures for the Borough for the previous year. The Birth Rate of 17.17 compares with a rate of 16.9 for 1945, but the rate for England and Wales in 1946 was 21.5

The general health of the Borough remained good. There were no major outbreaks of Infectious Diseases. During the latter part of the year, the Mass Radiography Unit operated on behalf of the Northamptonshire County Council, within the Borough, on what was a trial open session for the general public. The response was encouraging, due in no small measure to the enthusiastic work of your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Coupe, in co-operation with the staff operating with the Unit.

The Sanitary circumstances of the Borough have been well maintained, but the question of additional water supply is constantly in the mind. The water resources of this midland area are not plentiful and although it is stated in many quarters that water is abounding everywhere (?) — harnessing the small widely spread sources for supplying the domestic and industrial consumer is a major problem, too difficult for the commitments involved. The Joint Water Board for Pitsford Reservoir has been mooted, but up to the present no really tangible result has accrued from the many discussions.

Your Sanitary Inspector has commenced a survey of the housing conditions in the Borough - and up to date the findings are disturbing, to say the least. In the Housing Section of this Report, a fuller analysis has been made.

My efforts during the year have been most energetically amplified by the great amount of work done by Mr. Coupe, who has carried out his duties during his first year in the Borough with commendable zeal, thoroughness and tact.

David J. Jones

SECTION A

Natural and Social Conditions

DAYENTRY IS A SMALL BOROUGH OF 3,633 ACRES, combining all the benefits of urbanisation in a rural setting.

The town stands on the great trunk road from London to the N.W. and links Northants. with the fringe of the industrial Midlands. Its population having traditions of industry and craft, it would appear likely that some development must come.

At present the working population is basically engaged in the boot and shoe trade. A light engineering firm employs a further quota.

There are no deep environmental or occupational health problems associated with the local trades.

POPULATION — The Registrar General has estimated the resident population for the said year 1946, to have been 3,897, an increase of 7 over 1945. The natural increase in population, i.e. the excess of births over deaths was 17.

DEATHS — The total number of deaths assigned to the district after correction for inward and outward transfers, was 51. The figure for 1945 was 56. The death rate, calculated per thousand of the population was 13.08 compared with 14.3 in 1945.

Daventry					Standardised Death Rate		
Year	Total	Male	Female	Rate	Daventry	N'ton County	England and Wales
1942	41	24	17	10.3		11.02	11.60
43	53	32	20	13.2		12.29	12.10
44	47	25	22	12.2		12.65	11.60
45	56	28	28	14.3		12.34	11.40
46	51	27	24	13.08			11.50

The table which follows gives the causes of death as classified in the International List of Causes of Death, 1938. The mortality rate from Cancer and Heart and Circulatory diseases shows a decrease from 1945. Deaths from Tuberculosis also show a decrease from the previous year.

(continued)

(continued)

Cause of Death	Male	Female	Total
1.—Typhoid and para-typhoid fevers			
2.—Cerebro-spinal Fever			
3.—Scarlet Fever			
4.—Whooping Cough			
5.—Diphtheria			
6.—Tuberculosis, Respiratory	1		1
7.—Tuberculosis, other forms			
8.—Syphilitic Diseases			
9.—Influenza		1	1
10.—Measles			
11.—Acute Polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis			
12.—Acute Infective Encephalitis			
13.—Cancer of Buccal Cavity, Oesophagus and Uterus			
14.—Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	1	2
15.—Cancer of Breast		1	1
16.—Cancer of all other sites	2		2
17.—Diabetes			
18.—Intra-Cranial vascular lesions	6	5	11
19.—Heart Diseases	4	6	10
20.—Other Diseases of the Circulatory System			
21.—Bronchitis		3	3
22.—Pneumonia		2	2
23.—Other Respiratory Diseases		1	1
24.—Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1		1
25.—Diarrhoea under 2 years of age			
26.—Appendicitis			
27.—Other digestive disorders	2		2
28.—Nephritis	2	2	4
29.—Puerperal and post abortive sepsis			
30.—Other maternal causes			
31.—Premature birth	2		2
32.—Congenital Mal. birth injury, infant dis.	1	1	2
33.—Suicide	1		1
34.—Road traffic accidents			
35.—Other violent causes	1	2	3
36.—All other causes	3	1	4
Total	27	24	51

BIRTHS—The number of live births assigned to the town for the year was 68, compared with 66 in 1945. The birth rate per thousand of the population was 17.47.

BIRTH RATE 1942—1946

	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
Daventry	13.8	13.9	16.1	16.9	17.17
Administrative County	16.6	17.91	20.07	19.0	
England and Wales	15.8	16.5	17.6	16.1	21.5

STILLBIRTHS—The number of stillbirths registered was one (legitimate) compared with two in 1945. The still birth rate per thousand total live and still births was 14.5.

MATERNAL MORTALITY—It is pleasing to record that there were no maternal deaths from puerperal or other conditions associated with childbirth.

INFANT MORTALITY—The number of deaths of children under one year was five (three male and two female), all legitimate. Of these deaths, three were ascribed to prematurity, one Broncho pneumonia and one Icterus Neonatorum.

The death rate per thousand live births was 73.5.

SECTION B

General Provision of Health Services

LABORATORY SERVICES—All laboratory work in connection with the diagnosis and control of infectious disease is carried out at the Emergency Public Health Laboratory at Northampton General Hospital. The Council have paid an annual contribution of £1. 1s. for this service.

DIPHTHERIA ANTITOXIN—A supply of antitoxin is maintained in accordance with the provisions of the Diphtheria Antitoxin (outside London) Order, 1919, and is available free to Medical practitioners for use in the town.

AMBULANCE SERVICES—A motor ambulance operated by the St. John's Ambulance Brigade is garaged at Daventry Autocar in New Street. A rota of voluntary drivers is on call Telephone Daventry 16 by day, Daventry 179 or Police by night.

A mileage of 1,080 miles was run on 45 calls during 1946.

NURSING IN THE HOME—The District Nursing Association, maintained by voluntary contribution, are managed by a local committee. Particulars of the work carried out during the year is as follows—

Midwifery	Maternity	General
23	21	22

The committee of the Daventry Nursing Association is affiliated to the County Nursing Association. **District Nurse—**Nurse Berry, 25, Kingsley Avenue, Daventry.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS—Infant Welfare Clinic held on the first and third Friday in each month, in the Abbey Buildings. An ante-natal clinic is held on the same premises.

HOSPITALS—WESTERN NORTHANTS. JOINT HOSPITAL BOARD—

The hospital carried on by the above Board is situated in Staverton, and infectious disease cases from the rural districts of Brackley, Towcester and Daventry and the boroughs of Daventry and Brackley were admitted for treatment. Owing to the lack of Nursing and Domestic staff at the beginning of 1946, the hospital had to be closed, and arrangements had to be made by the Board for admission of cases to other hospitals within and without the county. The hospital has never reopened.

General medical and surgical cases are admitted to Northampton General Hospital or the Hospital of St. Cross, at Rugby.

SECTION C

Sanitary Circumstances of the District

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply to the Borough is obtained from three separate sources—

- (a) Sinkings at Dodford
- (b) An emergency war-time bore and pump at Monksmoor.
- (c) A purchased supply entering the Borough Hill system from Dodford Water Company.

The entire supply position has offered no difficulty throughout the year. As far as quality is concerned, the supply is automatically chlorinated before entering the supply mains. Three Bacteriological analyses were carried out during the year, and one Chemical analysis was also taken.

The analysts' reports were satisfactory.

The ultimate question of stabilising the various sources of supply is receiving attention, and the Surveyor and Water Engineer is formulating a scheme for the development of either or both of the Borough waters.

The new scheme will centralise storage, treatment and distribution of all water at Borough Hill.

The average consumption per head is 30 gallons per day over the whole population. As sanitary conversions proceed and the old hopper closets are replaced, and house supplies in lieu of stand pipes become more common, it must be seen that an increased consumption must be envisaged.

There are 1,088 dwelling houses within the Borough. Some 251 houses have been surveyed to date, and 193 are reported as using stand pipes, 58 having an internal supply. It is presumed that approximately 60 per cent. of the dwellings (when the better class houses have been inspected) will be found to be without a separate water supply.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The bulk of the houses within the Borough are connected to the sewerage system which gravitates to the works situated to the east of the town adjoining the Grand Junction Canal Company's Reservoir.

Some few houses rely on septic tanks, but the time is not yet opportune to re-plan the sewerage system to enable these topographically difficult sites to be connected to the sewer.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The movement from the past insanitary type of fittings is gathering impetus and gradually the elimination of the hopper type closets with their unpleasant characteristics and hand flushing, is commencing.

The survey showed that out of 251 houses, 98 houses lacked separate closet accommodation. A total of 200 were noted to have insanitary types of apparatus, or to be lacking in flushing means, or both.

It is questionable whether the time is not ripe for a conversion scheme, but when the Housing Survey is complete, the final figures may compel action to remedy the present low standard.

DISINFECTION

Four disinfections were carried out and two disinfestations of bedding and dwellings have been completed during the past year.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

No action under this head has been found necessary.

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT AND INFESTATION ORDERS—The co-operation of the Ministry of Food and Public Health Staff continues, and a complete survey of the Borough was undertaken in 1946.

Over 23 separate "blocks" were treated, following preliminary investigation. Several types of pre-bait were used, and the best results were obtained with a mixture of sausage mash. After three days' encouragement with the simple bait, a poison was added on the fourth. Check baits laid a few weeks later, on the sites so treated, showed that the work had been successful.

Approximately 500 rats were destroyed and over 200 visits were paid by the Sanitary Inspector, who undertook this work.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

A fortnightly collection of refuse is made and motor transport dumps the refuse at the Council's tip in Ashby Road. The site lends itself to controlled tipping, which is shortly to be commenced. No serious nuisance is noted at the site, but the question of more collections should receive attention.

SECTION D

Housing

A comprehensive housing survey has been initiated in the past year. After six years of War and consequent neglect, the housing situation which was already poor, deteriorated rapidly and post-war prospects are bad.

The survey is incomplete, yet sufficient has been done to be able to assess, within reasonable limits, the true Housing situation within the Borough

The bulk of the houses are old and lie within close reach of the main street. They couple along with structural defects, poor siting arrangements and as a whole lack the separate sanitary amenities presumed for modern life. The town, being old, has by long usage, adapted its mode of living to this cramped and communal way of life.

However, gradually, it is leaving this phase behind, and the survey is directed to draw attention to the ways this changing mode of life can be achieved.

Far too many houses are mere brick shells, where privacy and decency are impossible. Many houses are cramped into dark corners, sheltering under the shade of derelict workshops and premises long defunct. Too many families share sanitary accommodation and water supplies and have little or no washing or cooking means and structurally, after a long life, a great many houses have served all their useful period.

The removal of these worn-out and decaying dwellings cannot long be delayed. For the present a phase of new house building takes precedence over this reconditioning and slum clearance, and the method of Ministry of Works Building Licensing restricts often vital maintenance repairs. It is a plain fact that the present restriction of repairs cannot continue indefinitely, or as soon as the present new houses are finished another programme will be necessary to replace those now falling to pieces through neglect.

Total houses inspected	251
Number categorised as unfit for habitation	205
Number remedied by informal action	21
Number of representations made	15
(a) for service of Works Notice	5
(b) for making of Demolition or Closing Orders	0
Number of Notices served	1
Number rendered fit by above	1
Number of Demolition or Closing Orders	0
Number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under sub-sec. 2	
Section 19, H. A. 1936	0
Number of houses demolished	0
Number of houses having Sanitary Accommodation prejudicial to health	200
Number of houses without separate sanitary accommodation	98
Number of houses without sufficient drainage or sinks	193
Number of houses unfit for habitation and impossible to render fit	97
Number of houses unfit for habitation and capable of repair at reasonable cost	103

SECTION E

Control and Supervision of Food

MILK SUPPLY

Samples of milk taken on delivery to the consumer have been examined periodically, both for keeping quality and cleanliness.

Classification	No.	Per Cent.
Good	43	72
Moderate	9	15
Bad	8	13
Total	60	

These results compare favourably with the results of other authorities, but a certain amount of improvement could be made by attention to the actual methods of production and storage.

FOOD PREMISES

Visits made to Butchers' Shops	48
Visits made to Grocery Shops	54
Visits made to Fish Shops	24
Visits made to Other Food Premises	38

FOOD CONTROL

Details of food surrendered are shown below—

Tinned Milk	120 tins
Tinned Jam	2 tins
Tinned Meat	9 tins
Tinned Peas	2 tins
Tinned Tomatoes	3 tins
Tinned Beans	31 tins
Tinned Herrings	1 tin
Tinned Pilchards	14 tins
Tinned Salmon	14 tins
Tinned Fruit	2 tins
Tinned Meat and Vegetables	2 tins
Tinned Marmalade	5 tins
Tinned Sardines	2 tins
Pudding Mixture	72 packets
Shredded Wheat	264 packets

(continued)

(continued)

Scottish Oats	1 cwt.
Oranges	4½ cwts.
Pickles	3 jars
Bovril	1 tin
Fresh Cod	19 stones
Dried Fillets	6 stones
Smoked Haddock	7 stones
Herrings	6 stones
Kippers	2 stones
Megrims	5 stones
Bacon	4½ lbs.
Butter	2 lbs.
Margarine	76 lbs.
Lard	1 lb.
Sausage	18 lbs.
Mixed Confectionery	7 lbs.

LIVESTOCK (RESTRICTION ON SLAUGHTERING) ORDER, 1940

Meat for human consumption is slaughtered outside the Borough, mainly in Northampton, and delivery to the town has been carried out by arrangements between the Ministry of Food and the Ministry of Transport. It was evident in the early part of the year, that the methods of delivery, often in dirty lorries with ordinary sacking on the floor, meat and offal haphazardly arranged, were most unsatisfactory. Correspondence with the Ministries concerned led to an improvement—but even so, the delivery of meat is not up to the high standard which is to be desired. Your Sanitary Inspector is constantly on the look-out for any deviation from the improved standard, but until proper refrigerated vans are in use, it is probable that much of the valuable meat will be practically, if not completely unfit to be eaten.

SECTION F

Prevalence of, and Control Over Infectious and Other Diseases

Smallpox—No cases were notified.

Scarlat Fever—No cases were notified.

Diphtheria—No cases of Diphtheria occurred in the town during the year.
There have been no cases notified since 1942.

Diphtheria Prophylaxis—Children are immunised at the Infant Welfare Centre, at School Medical Inspection sessions, and by the general medical practitioners practising in the Borough either by private arrangement or under the scheme inaugurated by the County Council during the years of the war.

Application for immunisation may be made to

Medical Officer of Health, Moot Hall, Daventry

Miss Waugh, County Health Visitor, Long Buckby

The table on page 13 gives details of the progress of the immunisation scheme amongst the child population to 31st December, 1946.

Measles—No cases of Measles were notified during the year.

Whooping Cough—Two cases of Whooping Cough were notified during the year, both in the same family, in the first quarter of the year.

Paratyphoid and Typhoid Fevers—One case of Paratyphoid B Fever was notified in August. The infection was probably contracted at a seaside resort where a minor outbreak occurred almost simultaneously with the case notified in the town.

Tuberculosis.—There were eight new cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year, four male and four female, all with pulmonary infection. There were no cases of non-pulmonary disease.

The number of new cases of Tuberculosis (all forms) notified during the past five years were—

1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
4	5	4	0	8

(continued)

Immunisation against Diphtheria in the Child Population.

Number of children who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time
up to 31st December, 1946.

Age at 31.12.46	under 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	Total under 15
Year born	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1937-41	1932-36	
No Immunised		33	36	37	38	224	258	626
Estimated mid-year population, 1946		280				510		790

The figures quoted in the above table do not include children immunised by private arrangement between parent and General Practitioner.

(continued)

Mass Radiography Unit Survey—A Mass Radiography Unit operated by the County Council held a two weeks' session in the Borough towards the end of the year. It was in the nature of a trial, being open to all members of the public from the town and neighbouring villages in contrast to the previous operation of the unit in selected industries. Approximately 50 per cent of the estimated population took advantage of the facilities and 12 new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were discovered.

The response of the public, although not as high as was hoped for, can be considered satisfactory. Many people are no doubt afraid that pulmonary disease will be discovered, with its accompanying economic problems, but by systematic education and removal of the fear of economic breakdown by payment of grants etc., a far higher response should be forthcoming when next the Mass Radiograph Unit visits the town. By the expert use of this unit the early case of Tuberculosis can be discovered, early treatment commenced, and much suffering in following years removed, and what is very important, the potential "purveyor of the disease" prevented from disseminating one of the greatest diseases producing invalidism, and so frequently premature demise.

MASS MINIATURE RADIOGRAPHY

DAVENTRY BOROUGH

Report on Survey held in Daventry from October 21st to November 1st
1946

Type of Survey—Factory Survey and General Public

Percentage Response—73 per cent. (amongst factory personnel).

Summary of Work	Males	Females	Total
Number of Miniatures taken	537	614	1,151
Number of Clinical Examinations	20	8	28
Number referred to Dispensary	9	4	13
Number of Large Films taken	30	30	60

**Results in cases referred for Examination
at Dispensary—**

Tuberculosis

Active Pulmonary Tuberculosis

Number requiring Sanatorium Treatment	3	3	6
Number requiring Domiciliary Treatment	1	0	1
Number requiring observation whilst remaining at work	1	0	1
	5	3	8

(All these cases were newly discovered,
and one case had a positive sputum).

(continued)

	Males	Females	Total
Inactive Pulmonary Tuberculosis			
Requiring Dispensary observation	3	0	3
Requiring no further action		1	1
	3	1	4
Non-Tuberculous Conditions			
Spontaneous Pneumothorax	1	0	1
Results in other persons clinically examined by the Medical Director but not referred to Dispensary—			
Inactive Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3	0	3
Non-Tuberculous Conditions			
Bronchiectasis	1	1	2
Pulmonary Fibrosis	1	0	1
Basal Fibrosis	1	0	1
Intra-thoracic new growth	1	0	1
Cardio-Vascular lesions, acquired	2	1	3
Miscellaneous	1	2	3
Cases found normal	1	0	1
	8	4	12

C. M. SMITH

July, 1947.

County Medical Officer of Health

The above figures have been kindly supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health for Northamptonshire, Dr. C. M. SMITH

SECTION G

Statistical Tables

Summary of Inspections and Visits by the Sanitary Inspector

Complaints received	84
Houses inspected (visits)	580
Dairies	21
Cowsheds	42
Bakehouses	24
Petroleum Stores	18
Factories	19
Premises for voluntary improvement inspected	12
Other premises	51
Re-inspections	202
Infectious Diseases—visits made	18

Defects remedied during the year

Demolition of obstructive buildings	4
Drain tests	18
Drainage repairs effected	14
Insanitary Closets converted to wash down system	21
Water flushing adopted	18
Sinks fitted and water supply installed	12
Repairs effected to roofs and external fabric	121
Repairs effected to internal structure and fittings	150
Unfit houses totally reconditioned or subdivided into flats or separate dwellings	14
Bathrooms installed	16

